

URBANA UNION

WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 12, 1862.

TERMS:—One Dollar per annum, in advance. The cheapest and best country paper in Ohio.



THE UNION OF HEARTS—The Union of Hands
The Union of States none can sever;
The Union of Lakes—the Union of Lands,
And the Flag of Our Union Forever!

THE URBANA UNION is a newspaper for the people of Champaign county. It is not in the interest of any party, nor is it meant to be identified with the interest of any party, because it will not be fettered. It will not be neutral, for that means-line serving timidity. It will have very distinct opinions on all public questions connected with government, whether Union, State, or County; and on the expression of opinions it will have but one guide—a strict adherence to law. It will support the Constitution and the Laws, without regard to platforms or to party dogmas.

War and General News of Week

ENDING AUG. 13, 1862.

THE army of McClellan has continued to send parties to the South of the James River, apparently to learn how the country is occupied towards the Railroads leading South. The iron-clad gunboats, and especially the Monitor, seem to be keeping close watch at points higher up the River than any others for the expected new Merrimack, spoken of as being finished at Richmond.

Rumors continue to be afloat that the enemy are leaving Richmond on account of pestilence. The rumor is probably a mere conjecture; the troops would of course be sent away for the purpose of attack elsewhere.

Gen. Pope's army has had an engagement with Jackson's army in Culpeper county, which has been destructive on both sides and without any decisive result. As usual, the Union troops were outnumbered and outmaneuvered.

The object of the Union movement was to possess the Railroad which connects Richmond with the mountain region and the Valley. Altho' we occupy no part of the road the use of it has become precarious to the rebel forces as a means of supply.

A despatch from Gen. Pope says that he has driven the enemy before the Rapidan River. His despatches always tell of large results. He took 20,000 prisoners at Shiloh which cannot be found.

The rebel ran Arkansas was disabled a few days ago in her machinery and was blown up and abandoned by her officers—now she has sunk two of our gunboats and aided in the taking of Baton Rouge, under Gen. J. C. Breckinridge. Baton Rouge is the capital of Louisiana, and is 150 miles from New Orleans.

District Convention.

On the day of our last issue—August 6th, a meeting of election managers was held at Piqua, and called a Convention for the nomination of a candidate for Congress. The quality of the meeting may be known from the sample furnished by Champaign County. We have already described the county meeting which chose the delegates and described it as composed of ten persons about the Court House. They nominated as Delegates forty persons, who were distributed ornamentally through the townships, but not expected to attend. The same ten persons who chose the delegates were mostly present accompanied by a few others who had proxies. A man of skill in such matters and who knew the ropes could with one hundred dollars to travel round for proxies and to pay their expenses to the place of convention, fix up the whole affair to any required pattern, and also furnish popular principles for the candidates. It might be readily attached to the Village Gas Works, and worked by the manager of that establishment.

The convention was duly organized and after seven ballots, Wm. H. West, of Logan County, was nominated. The persons proposed as candidates were as follows and to each name we affix the number of votes received on each ballot:

1st. 2d. 3d. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th.
Wm. H. West.....34 52 60 61 54 74 113
Benj. Stanton.....49 67 75 89 77 85 70
John W. Knox.....43 34 24 48 55 59
D. Burgess.....28 22
G. V. Dorsey.....25 27 34 25
E. Parsons.....2

Mr. West is at present a member of the Ohio Legislature, and has shown himself to be active and useful, particularly in the direction of economy in our finances. His nomination over Mr. Stanton, who has large experience and could at once take a leading part, does not speak well for the convention, and only shows the force of outside combination, which was no doubt lent on having a man who was a close "Republican," which we understand Mr. West to be.

M. West made a speech to the Convention after his nomination in which he used this language:

"In regard to the great rebellion which now divides our country, should he be placed in Congress he said he would not hesitate to use all the means and every means which the God of battles had put in his power effectually to crush out this great rebellion.

We shall be happy to know from some of Mr. West's promoters what is meant

by using all the means which the God of battles and the God of Battles have placed in our hands?

General McClellan and his Adversaries. The adversaries of General McClellan attack his hostility under the pretense of superior love of country. He has not served their turn in the side issues they wish to raise in the suppression of Rebellion, and they hate him with the bitterness of disappointed men. The vigor of their hate is increased by knowing and feeling that although persevering falsehood may have imposed on their party followers, they have made no impression on the army.

We call our readers' attention to the article in this day's paper about the Estate known as Lee's White House. McClellan was abused, first, for protecting this property by a guard. He did so because he thought that it was once the home of Washington. No matter whether that was true or not, he thought it was true. Next he was abused for not using it as a hospital, and after a due amount of spasmodic falsehood in letters to the Gazette, &c., it was moved in Congress as an inquiry, and finally Mr. Stanton is swayed through his Surgeon General to send a despatch to Gen. McClellan who is checked in the performance of his proper duties and compelled to make the elaborate answer which we now furnish. Take particular notice that the Cincinnati Gazette has never published this conclusive answer. The Surgeon General who was used as an instrument to act upon the Secretary is an unfit man for the place he holds. Mr. Stanton was drawn into a mistake; that is, making an order on the strength of a public clamor. But we have no accusations to make against him. He is an able man, and in such a man, every mistake discovered, is an error corrected.

Coffee.

Why did Coffee come into general use all over the world? Because it was found on trial to be an agreeable and beneficial stimulus. Science has since discovered, that both coffee and tea, have absolute nutriment in them, and that they prevent the waste of tissue and produce the same effect as solid food, which supplies the waste of tissue. No substitute will answer the real end for which coffee is properly used; with weakly persons, substitutes are often pernicious.

But the tax? Yes, that is what we meant to speak of. The tax to Government is five cents a pound, and with proper allowance to the merchants for advancing the tax, we may set down the price of coffee, as six cents a pound higher than it would be without a duty on it. Coffee will not be so cheap again as it has been, because the demand is increasing and the supply of labor diminishing. The family that uses two pounds of coffee per week, pays a weekly tax of twelve cents—a little less than two cents a day. If you feel the necessity of saving that sum, you can easily do it in your beef, either by buying cheaper pieces, or by lessening the quantity. One quarter of a pound of beef less each day, will more than cover the use of good pure coffee.

There is a man here and there,—very few however, who refuses to use coffee, because he would be paying tax to the Government. He is kinder to his neighbor than he thinks for; he helps to keep down the price.

We understand that a fierce attack was made on Benjamin Stanton at the Printers' meeting held in Piqua under the name of a Convention. The ostensible ground of attack was the speech made in Congress, in June, 1861, when he declared his readiness to offer guarantees to the Southern States in order to retain them in the Union, and his willingness to have a peaceable separation rather than a civil war. We have simply heard that such an attack was made; and we can readily understand that the attack was made for the common benefit of the other candidates. We have not heard who made the attack or we would give him the benefit of his late found indignation by displaying his name. At present we can only say that he is a pretentious factious unless he can show that he uttered his dissent from the doctrine of the speech when the speech was made. Who, among all these indignant patriots made any dissent at the time from the peaceable course of Mr. Stanton? When Mr. Buchanan, followed the advice of his Attorney-General, Mr. Black, that the Government had no constitutional power to coerce a State, who took ground against that pernicious doctrine which no one now dares maintain? No, one; but the champions of Union answered with refined distinctions in law that the Union Government acted on the people individually, and thus they would prevail. Mr. Stanton was the ablest man of his party that sat in that Congress, and what he moved and did was the outside mark that any man dares prescribe. Had he not brought in a bill to authorize the President to accept the services of volunteers to aid in enforcing the laws, and did not the party let it be voted down? That single act of falling courage in that Congress has cost the nation thousands of lives and millions of treasure! For the want of that act, the President was compelled to limit his first call for troops to the term of three months only, and that limitation lost us the battle of Bull Run. Who then denounced the Congress for not coming up to Mr. Stanton's lead? or who among these indignant gentlemen, calling themselves Delegates, was ready to cast off Mr. Stanton for being too tame and compromi-

sing? What one of them since has shown any alacrity in giving aid to the country by the offer of his person to serve as a volunteer?

The URBANA UNION is not the champion of Mr. Stanton or of any one else, and it refuses adhesion to any mere partisan convention, whether Republican or Democratic. It now seems probable that the Democratic party may set in the same manner, and choose a mere party candidate of their own. Mr. West will, no doubt, be pleased to have it so, as it will increase his chances of success. But if it shall be found that Mr. West has been chosen on any secret understanding that he will follow the lead of the present Congress—and an independent candidate of marked ability, devoted to the preservation of the Union and of Law, shall come before the people, that candidate will be certainly elected.

Drafting.

THERE is much silly talk about the "disgrace of being drafted" to serve in the army; and this silly talk occasionally figures in newspapers' head lines. The nation expects every man to do his duty, and the nation has a right to command the services of every able-bodied man within it. There is no mode so equal and so just as that of draft; which moves on all alike, rich and poor, willing and reluctant. There can be no dishonor in obeying what the Country has a right to command. And let the vaunters of public spirit be a little sparing of their sneers and censures lest men be provoked to inquire about the patriotism which bargains for a bounty, or which coolly leaves one's family to the public, and postpones its debts till 30 days after the War is over.

THE WHITE HOUSE QUESTION.

SECRETARY STANTON laid before Congress, in answer to the resolution of inquiry of the House of Representatives, the full correspondence in relation to the occupation of White House, Virginia. The following official explanation from Gen. McClellan discusses the whole question:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
CAMP LINCOLN, VA., June 22, 1862.

Sir:—On the 7th inst. I received a telegram from you, a copy of which I here insert.

[Telegram.]

"WASHINGTON, 12:30 P. M., June 7, 1862.

"Very urgent complaints are being made from various quarters respecting the protection afforded to the rebel General Lee's property, called the White House, instead of using it as a hospital for the care of wounded soldiers. It is represented that they have even to purchase a glass of water for thirsty, wounded and suffering soldiers. It seems to me that the necessities of our suffering soldiers require that this property should be devoted to their use rather than be protected for rebel officers by whose arms our troops have fallen. I hope you will give an order to that effect.

"EDWIN M. STANTON,
"Secretary of War."

To this I replied on the same day, as follows:

[Telegram.]
HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
June 7, 1862.

"Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:
"Your despatch of 12:30 P. M. to day received, and I must confess that its contents have not only struck me with astonishment, but have given me much pain. The care of our sick and wounded has taken the unremitting energies of the whole medical corps in this army, as well as occupied a great share of my attention from other important duties, and I feel conscious that everything has been done for their comfort that human efforts could accomplish.

"The White House of the rebel General Lee, referred to, is a small frame building of six rooms, worth probably fifteen hundred dollars, and the medical directors state that it would not accommodate more than thirty patients. He has tents where the patients are comfortable, and he has, therefore, never conceived it necessary to call for the use of the house as a hospital.

"As to the story about the thirsty, wounded, suffering soldiers having to buy a glass of water, its only foundation probably originated in the fact that some civilian, who was too indolent to go for the water himself, may have paid a negro for bringing it to him.

"The following extract from a despatch just received from Colonel Rufus Ingalls, the chief Quartermaster in charge at White House, will give you some light upon this subject, and perhaps satisfy you as to the motives of the individuals who make the urgent complaints in question:

"No one here has had cause to suffer for water, unless he was too drunk or sick to drink it. We have water in unnecessary abundance. The springs are numerous, the water is very fine, and no prohibition has ever been placed on the free and unlimited use of it. The author of this report to the contrary must be a simpleton or a malicious knave."

"I have given special directions to protect the property of the White House from any unnecessary injury or destruction, because it was once the property of General Washington, and I cannot believe that you will regard this as a cause for rebuke or censure. I protect no houses against us when they are needed for sick or wounded soldiers. Persons who endeavor to impose upon you such malicious and unfounded reports as those alluded to are not only enemies to this army, but to the cause in which they are now fighting.

"Geo. B. McCLELLAN,
"Major General."

In answer to which I received the following:

[Telegram.]
WASHINGTON, 8th.

"Major-General McClellan: My despatch to you in relation to the White House, was to inform you that representations were made here concerning the matter by persons who profess to speak from personal knowledge, and also by letters, in order that your attention might be directed to it, and all grounds of complaint removed, if any exist. I am glad that your explanation will enable me to correct this misrepresentation. Neither you nor I can hope to correct such stories, but so far

as it is in my power, I shall labor to do so.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
"Secretary of War."

I remain under the impression that the matter was disposed of to your entire satisfaction, until I received a communication from the Assistant Secretary of War, under date of the 16th instant, enclosing a copy of a communication from the Surgeon General to the War Department, bearing your endorsement, recommending that I should make the order that is requested. I insert copies of both, that the subject may be better understood:

"WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., June 16, 1862."

Sir: The Secretary of War directs me to forward to you the enclosed copy of a communication of this date, just received from the Surgeon General, requesting that the 'White House grounds' may be turned over to the medical authorities for hospital purposes, with the recommendation which the Secretary has endorsed thereon, and to call your attention to the same.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"C. P. WOLCOTT,
"Assistant Secretary of War."

"Major-General Geo. B. McClellan, Commanding Army of the Potomac."

"SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., June 16, 1862."

"Sir: It has been represented to me by responsible gentlemen that the White House and the enclosed grounds are admirably adapted for hospital purposes.

"The water used by the sick, at present, is very bad; that on the White House grounds, on the contrary, is excellent. The location is moreover an admirable one for a hospital camp. I have, therefore, respectfully to request that the house and grounds may be turned over to the medical authorities.

"I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
Wm. A. HANCOCK,
"Surgeon General."

"Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War."

"A true copy from the original on file in this Department.
C. P. WOLCOTT,
"Assistant Secretary of War."

"War Department, June 16, 1862."

On the receipt of the foregoing I ordered the chief medical officer of this army to proceed to White House and make a thorough investigation of the whole matter, and I here insert a copy of his report:

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
CAMP LINCOLN, MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,
June 17, 1862."

"GENERAL: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your instructions, I proceeded to White House on Friday afternoon (20th) and returned yesterday.

"I called upon Colonel Ingalls, and in company with him examined the house known as the White House, as well as the out buildings, grounds and spring.

"The house is two stories in height, with two small rooms on each floor, with a very small wing at each end on the lower floor, a cellar under the main building, and with no attic.

"The four rooms in the main building can each accommodate five patients; one of the wings can accommodate three or perhaps four patients; the other is a sort of pantry, and has on one side the opening for the stairway to descend into the cellar. This room is unfit for any other purpose than a dispensary or kitchen. The cellar is dark, damp and foul, and in my opinion, should of itself forbid the occupation of the house as a hospital.

"The greatest number of sick which the house can accommodate is, then, twenty four, leaving no room for the nurses. The out buildings are entirely unfit for hospital purposes.

"The grounds consist of a lawn shaded by locust trees, and a kitchen garden. The lawn affords room for about twenty-five hospital tents.

"The kitchen garden is of loose soil, parts of it rather low, and in wet weather would be muddy and uncomfortable; by ditching it might be drained.

"The spring is at the foot of the bank near the dairy house. The water is good, similar to that of the other springs that have been prepared for the use of the men.

"The supply of water in the spring within the grounds is very scanty. The hospital steward told me he had abandoned it because he found it required two hours and a half to fill a barrel of water. The spring is inaccessible to wagons. It has always been at the service of the hospital. I enclose the order of Col. Ingalls to that effect.

"If this house were used for hospital purposes, it could only be made available for the quarters of the surgeons attached and for a dispensary.

"The sick would require hospital tents upon the lawn. If the grounds were occupied in this way, as they are altogether insufficient for the whole establishment, it would necessitate the organization of a separate administration—surgeons, cooks, stewards, &c.—an expenditure of personnel that we cannot very well afford.

"We have now one hundred and seventy hospital tents pitched on the plantation, well arranged and well policed, the camp well drained, the administration tents, the cooking apparatus and the subsistence tents, centrally located and convenient for all parties. Thirty five more tents are on the ground, and are being pitched as the force at our disposal will allow. Sixty five of these tents have plank floors. The remaining thirty-five of the first one hundred received would have been flooded if the lumber had been on hand.

"The delay in receiving this, however, has developed an interesting and important fact; the mortality in the flooded tents has been very sensible greater than in those without floors. I have directed the surgeon in charge to prepare tables showing the comparative ratio of deaths in the two classes of tents for my information. If lumber is received, I will suspend the flooring of the remaining tents until these tables can be examined, and the question set at rest.

"I must remark that, although the whole of the tents occupied were in good police, and an air of comfort pervading them, still those without floors were decidedly superior in these respects to the others.

"In relation to the relative advantages of hospital tents and buildings for hospital purposes, I think that, among those at all familiar with the subject, there is but one opinion—that the tents are decidedly the best.

"Very respectfully your obedient servant,
"CHAS. S. TRULLEN,
"Surgeon and Medical Director,
Army of the Potomac."

"Gen. R. B. Marcy, Chief of Staff."

I also insert a communication on this subject this day received from Dr. E. P. Volinn, medical inspector, who, upon the 17th inst., received an order from the Surgeon General to proceed to 'White House and other necessary points, and organize a system for the more efficient conduct of the transportation of the sick and wounded of the Army of the Army of the Potomac to the general hospital."

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
June 23, 1862."

"Sir: As you request, I will state my opinion of the amount of accommodation of the White House. Virginia, for the sick and wounded, and what I know of the supply of water there for hospital purposes.

"The White House will hold about twenty-five beds, with scarcely room enough for the necessary number of nurses for that number. If the space in the house were consumed by an apothecary store rooms for medicines, provisions and soldiers' effects necessary for that number of beds, the place would be excessively crowded. In this calculation the medical officers and steward would have to quarter outside.

"The spring in front of the White House, near the water's edge has a good flow of water, but not enough for the sick under Dr. Watson's care, near that place; in consequence of which he sank some casks near by, which he informed me furnished enough water of good quality.

"Very respectfully your obedient servant,
"EDM. P. VOLINN,
"Medical Inspector United States Army."

"Brigadier General S. Williams, Adjutant General Army of the Potomac."

The only order ever given by me in regard to this property was that on the 10th of May. I directed that the house and yard should not be occupied by our troops. I did this because of the associations which connect the premises with the earlier life of him whom we call the Father of his Country; and this order, with the reason therefor, was at once telegraphed to yourself in these words:

"I have taken every precaution to secure from injury this house, where Washington passed the first portion of his married life. I neither occupy it myself nor permit others to occupy it, or the grounds in immediate vicinity."

The rest of the property, covering several thousand acres, with all the other buildings, have been open to use by this army. I believe that the only complaint made in reference to the order given by me is the assertion that the promises should have been used for hospital purposes.

I have never received any suggestion from any medical officer or from any other source in this army that such was desirable, and on this point I refer you to the report of the medical director and the statement of the medical inspector.

It appears that there is a spring within or near the enclosure, of which my first knowledge was derived after receipt of your telegram of the 7th instant. As the character of this spring, and the general facilities for obtaining water at the White House, I refer you to the statements of Col. Ingalls, the medical director and medical inspector heretofore inserted.

That the officer in charge there may, however, be protected against misrepresentation, I here insert a copy of a written order issued by him on the 21st of May on this very subject:

"OFFICE OF QUARTERMASTER,
WHITE HOUSE, Virginia, May 21, '62."

"The guards and sentinels around the White House will allow the carts and wagons used for hospital purposes to have access at all times to the water within the enclosure."

"RUFUS INGALLS,
Lieut. Colonel, Aide de Camp and Quartermaster U. S. Army."

It is scarcely for me to say that where springs or wells are in the vicinity of large bodies of troops, commanders often find it necessary to place guards over them, not to prohibit, but to protect the proper use of the water.

Those who have originated the false statements concerning this house, yard and spring, are, in fact, as stated in my dispatch of the 7th instant, enemies of this army, and of the cause in which it is fighting. They have imposed upon the Surgeon-General, and caused him to make official representations, which, on examination, prove to be unfounded in truth, and which are disrespectful to his superior office. They have unnecessarily occupied the attention of the commander and the medical director of this army in the midst of the most arduous duties.

Under the circumstances, I conceive that I shall discharge my duty and meet your wishes by deferring the order recommended by you until this statement has been considered, and some specific instruction given to me, unless the medical director may desire to make such use of the property.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Geo. B. McCLELLAN,
Major-General Commanding.

Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War.

From Columbus.

COLUMBUS, August 11.—The Governor has been besieged to-day by various committees for authority to raise additional three-year's regiments. Cincinnati, Circleville, Ashland, and Bellefontaine have been represented by large and respectable delegations.

Authority was granted to Captain O'Dowd to raise an Irish regiment in Hamilton Co., provided it be done by Friday next.

Voluntary recruiting cannot be extended beyond the morning of the 16th.

All recruits who offer themselves for three years within that time, will be received, and will, by so much, diminish the number to be drafted. Full companies offering may elect their own officers, and will be assigned to regiments by the Governor.

Numerous applications continue to be made to the Surgeon General for admission to the Examining Board for Army Surgeons. No more applicants will be received until another order is issued.

A heavy shipment of horse equipment was made from the State Arsenal to Louisville today. Equip supplies of camp equipment are now being received by Capt. Burr, and will be immediately distributed to the camps.

Squads and detachments for 4th and 55th regiments have been arriving and passing out to Camp Chase all day. They come with drums and fics and flags flying, and the town has been quite gay.

A Good Home Paper.

THE

URBANA UNION,

A

FAMILY NEWSPAPER

INDEPENDENT ON ALL SUBJECTS,

DEVOTED TO

Foreign and Domestic News, Literature,

Science, Agriculture, Mechanics,

Education, Matters of

Commerce, &c.

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